



Department of Justice

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WELLINGTON MAN INVOLVED IN HOMICIDE **SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

WICHITA, KAN. – Timothy J. Olivas, 26, Wellington, was sentenced Wednesday to 20 years in federal prison on firearms charges arising from his involvement in the killing of a Wellington woman in 2005.

Olivas pleaded guilty in May 2007 to one count of unlawful possession of a firearm after a felony conviction and one count of giving a firearm to an unlawful user of a controlled substance.

The firearms violations are connected to Olivas' role in the Sept. 12, 2005, killing of Carrie Blake in Wellington, Kan. Another man, Zachary Smith, pleaded guilty to firing the shotgun blast that killed Blake.

"Evidence shows that Mr. Olivas gave Smith the gun and ammunition that killed Ms. Blake, accompanied Smith to Blake's house and was present there when the murder occurred," said U.S. Attorney Eric Melgren.

In his plea, Olivas admitted giving Smith a Midland 12 gauge shotgun and ammunition just before the two of them went to Blake's house the night of the killing. He told police they went intending to "scare" Blake. But Smith testified under oath at an inquisition in April 2006 that he and Olivas went to the house intending to kill Blake.

In his plea, Olivas admitted that upon their arrival at the house he went to the front door while Smith went to the back door. Olivas said he entered the house and talked to Blake. When Blake went to the kitchen, Smith shot her in the abdomen. Wounded, Blake ran to her bedroom. Smith reloaded the shotgun, followed Blake to the bedroom and shot her again, this time in the head.

Olivas admitted that he left the murder scene in Smith's car while Smith took Blake's car. Olivas followed Smith to an empty field where Smith abandoned Blake's car and they drove on together. Later that night, police arrested the two men at Olivas' residence.

Olivas also admitted that he had been convicted in February 2005 on felony charges of arson and aggravated assault. Federal law makes it illegal for a convicted felon to possess a firearm.

Melgren commended the Wellington Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Mott for their work on the case.

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